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Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 10340 201909Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARA-06 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01 INT-05

NSC-05 SS-15 IGA-02 SCA-01 /127 W
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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2632
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL OCTOBER 18-19, 1976: SECOND DAY HIGHLIGHTS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 10178, (B) EC BRUSSELS 10273, (C) EC BRUSSELS 10 275

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO THEIR DISCUSSION ON FISHING MATTERS AND THE EIB LOAN TO YUGOSLAVIA (REPORTED SEPTELS) THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COVERED THE FOLLOWING POINTS DURING THEIR OCTOBER 19 COUNCIL SESSION: (A) RELATIONS WITHACP
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 10340 201909Z

STATES; (B) EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE; (C) AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

DEVELOPING STATES; (D) 1977 EC BUDGET, (E) UNIFORM PASSPORT PROCEDURES; (F) EC/ISRAEL AGREEMENT; (G) TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL; AND (H) EURATOM SAFEGUARD PROCEDURES. THE MINISTERS ALSO MET WITH GREEK MINISTER OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING PAPALIGOURAS AND TOOK PART IN THE SIGNATURE OF THE EC/BANGKADESH COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. RELATIONS WITH ACP STATES. THE MINISTERS RE-VIEWED PREPARATIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 20 BRUSSELS MEETING BETWEEN DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF FIJI, WHO IS CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE ACP MINISTERS. THE MEETING HAS LONG BEEN SCHEDULED TO LOOK AT EC/ACP TRADE PROBLEMS UNDER THE LOME CONVEN-TION. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL PERMDEL SOURCES, EC COM-MISSIONER CHEYSSON EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE EX-CHANGE BETWEEN VAN DER STOEL AND HIS ACP COUNTERPARTS COULD BE KEPT ON THE LEVEL OF GENERALITIES AND NOT BE ALLOWED TO ASSUME THE TONE OF NEGOTIATIONS OF CONTENTIOUS TRADE ISSUES.

3. EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. THE MINISTERS RECEIVED A REPORT ON DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STEL'S RECENT MEETINGS WITH ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMOUD RIAD IN CAIRO AND THE TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN PERMDEL SOURCE, VAN DER STOEL TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT ALGHOUGH RIAD HAD EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO PROCEED AT AN EARLY DATE WITH A GENERAL COMMITTEE (AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL) MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, THE TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR A MEETING IN TUNIS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR (USEC 9684). THE MINISTERS AGREED TO VAN DER STOEL'S PROPOSAL THAT THE EC PAR-TICIPATE IN A MEETING IN TUNIS THIS DECEMBER IF THE ARAB GOVERNMENT SO DESRE AND IF THE SEVERAL WORK-ING GROUPS HAVE FINISHED THEIR PREPARATORY WORK BY THAT TIME.

4. AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING STATES. ON
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PAGE 03 EC BRU 10340 201909Z

THE SECOND DAY OF DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE, COUNCIL OVERCAME DANISH AND FRENCH OBJECTIONS AND APPROVED THE EXPENDITURE OF 20 MUA FOR AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING STATES, WHICH HAD BEEN ADDED TO THE 1976 BUDGET BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. SPECIFIC COUNTRY ALLOCATION FIGURES ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NOVEMBER 8 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING FOR APPROVAL. THE COUNCIL ALSO GAVE PROVISIONAL APPROVAL TO THE

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ADDITION TOTHE 1977 BUDGET OF 30 MUA FOR AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING STATES. THIS DECISION WILL BECOME FINAL AS SOON AS THE AD REFERENDUM APPROVAL GRANTED BY ONE UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER STATE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO THE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT.

5. DRAFT 1977 EC BUDGET. THE COUNCIL APPROVED INTERNAL REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS IN THE FEOGA QUARANTEE SECTION OF THE 1977 DRAFT BUDGET. THIS DECISION WAS OF A PURELY BOOKEEPING NATURE AND DOES NOT AFFECT THE BUDGET TOTAL, WHICH HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN INCREASED BY THE YUGOSLAVIA LOAN GUARANTEE (50 MILLION U.A.) AND PROVISION FOR AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING STATES (30 MILLION U.A.)

6. UNIFORM EC PASSPORT. THE COUNCIL BRIEFLY REVIEWED PROGRESS ON DEVELOPING A UNIFORM PASSPORT IN THE MEMBER STATES. STILL AT ISSUE ARE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE FORMAT OF THE COVER (WHETHER "EUROPEAN COMMUNITY" SHOULD BE PRINTED ABOVE OR BELOW THE NAME OF THE ISSUING STATE ON THE COVER) AND THE NUMBER OF LANGUAGES IN WHICH THE PASSPORT SHOULD BE PRINTED. COREPER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THESE TWO POINTS, HOPEFULLY THE TIME OF THE NOVEMBER EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING.

7. AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. THE COUNCIL APPROVED DIRECTIVES AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE A FINANCIAL PROTOCOL TO BE ANNEXED TO THE EXISTING EC/ ISRAEL AGREEMENT. THE PROTOCOL WOULD PROVIDE FOR EIB LOANS TO ISRAEL OF UP TO 30 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD. THE COUNCIL ALSO AUTHORIZED NEGO- TIATION OF AN ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CURRENT EC/
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ISRAEL AGREEMENT WHICH, ACCORDING TO EC COMMISSION SOURCES, WOULD BROADEN PROVIDIONS FOR TECHNICAL ASSIST- ANCE COOPERATION AND ELEVATE THE SEMI-ANNULA EC/ISRAEL CONSULTATION TO THE STATUS OF AJOINT COMMITTEE.

8. TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL. THE COUNCIL AUTHOR- IZED SIGNATURE OF ATEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL. THIS AGREEMENT, THE ENGLISH TEXT OF WHICH WAS TRANS- MITTED IN EC BRUSSELS A-394 OF AUGUST 18, 1976, WAS INITIALED ON APRIL 1.

9. EURATOM SAFEGUARD PROCEDURES. THE COUNCIL APPROVED A REGULATION RELATION IN IAEA/EURATOME PRO- CEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT. DETAILS CONTAINED IN SPETEL.

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10. GREECE. THE MINISTERS MET BRIEFLY WITH GREEK MINISTER OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING PAPALIGOURAS FOR WHAT AMOUNTED TO THE FIRST WORKING SESSION OF THE GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS. THE MEETING, HELD AT GREEK REQUEST TO GIVE FURTHER SYMBOLIC MOMENTUM TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, WAS ENTIRELY PRO FORMA AND RESULTED IN NO SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS. ACCORDING TO PERMDEL SOURCES, THE COUNCIL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE GREEK REQUEST THAT ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS ENTAIL QUARTERLY MINISTERIAL LEVEL SESSIONS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS AT THE DEPUTY LEVEL. HOWEVER, CITING THE LARGE AMOUNT OF PREPARATORY WORK STILL TO BE DONE, THE COUNCIL DID NOT COMMIT ITSEL FON THE GREEK REQUEST THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN IN NOVEMBER. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN SPOKESMAN, PAPALIGOURAS TOLD THE MINISTERS THAT GREECE WAS ANXIOUS NOT TO LOSE ANY OF THE BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATION STATUS WHILE THE NGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED, IN PARTICULAR, TO BE KEPT ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL AND REGIONAL SECTORS. HE ALSO NOTED GREECE'S HOPE THAT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE NEXT TRANCHE OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GREECE UNDER THE PRESENT ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT CAN BE CONCLUDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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11. EC-BANGLADESH AGREEMENT. A FIVE YEAR COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND BANGLADESH WAS SIGNED OCTOBER 19 BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT VAN DER STOEL, COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND DR. M.N. HUDA, A MEMBER OF THE BANGLADESH PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF ADVISORS (EC BRUSSELS 7499). THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR: RECIPROCAL EXTENSION OF MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT; DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF MUTUAL TRADE; INCREASED ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION IN THIRD COUNTRIES; AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN PERMDEL SOURCE, THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED ON A STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE CHAIR THAT THE SIGNATURE OF THE EC/BANGLADESH AGREEMENT DOES NOT PRECLUDE FURTHER BILATERAL PRESUMABLY NON-TRADE) AGREEMENTS BETWEEN EC MEMBER STATES AND BANGLADESH. MORRIS

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